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PATENT APPLICATION

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2177

In re the Application of

Yoichi IKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2177

Application No.: 09/808,141

Examiner: Miranda Le

Filed: March 15, 2001

Docket No.: 108933

For: FILE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH A
FILE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS RECORDED

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 15, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,460); and claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart in view of Yokomizo (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,418). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In particular, Applicants assert that neither Stewart nor Yokomizo, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a file management apparatus, including at least a structure information setting section capable of having a user arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name, the file name being given to image data acquired by an image data acquiring section when the image data is stored in a memory, and a name-generating section for acquiring information relating to the image data according to the

structure information that is set by the structure information setting section to generate the virtual fie name using the acquired information, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 6.

Furthermore, neither Stewart nor Yokomizo disclose or suggest a computer readable medium storing a file management program, the program including at least a step of having a user arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name, the file name be given to image data acquired by an image data acquiring step when the image data is stored in a memory, and acquiring information relating to the image data according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting step to generate the file name using the acquired information, as recited in independent claim 7, and similarly recited in independent claim 12.

Specifically, Stewart discloses an object storage device which utilizes a file system that assists storing objects in directories. However, the system does not allow users to arbitrarily set folder and file names. Instead, in the directory structure in Stewart, directory names are fixed and set beforehand by the computer (as shown in Figure 8 of Stewart) using names such as HD-1, HD-2 and HD-3. Furthermore, in the slot organization 600 in Figure 6 of Stewart, the directory names are fixed and set using names such as Slot-1, Slot -2 and Slot-3). Therefore, Stewart clearly differs from the claimed invention in both configuration and in effect.

Yokomizo differs in field of art and in object as compared to the claimed invention. For example, Yokomizo does not even disclose or imply anything about file names or generating file names which demonstrates that Yokomizo is in a different of art. Instead, Yokomizo discloses digitalizing films into image data, transmitting image data via a network and providing users with photographs. The terms "thumbnail image" and "virtual file" in Yokomizo are used only to explain the disclosed system.

In contrast to the claimed invention, neither Stewart nor Yokomizo, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a file management apparatus, including at least a structure information setting section capable of having a user arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name, the file name being given to image data acquired by an image data acquiring section when the image data is stored in a memory, and a name-generating section for acquiring information relating to the image data according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting section to generate the virtual file name using the acquired information.

Furthermore, neither Stewart nor Yokomizo disclose or suggest a computer readable medium storing a file manager program, including at least a step of having a user arbitrarily set beforehand structure information that defines structure of a file name, the file name be given to image data acquired by an image data acquiring step when the image data is stored in a memory, and acquiring information relating to the image data according to the structure information that is set by the structure information setting step to generate the file name using the acquired information.

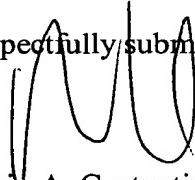
On the contrary, nowhere in Stewart or Yokomizo is it disclosed or suggested that users can structure file names of acquired image data at their discretion by using variables (i.e., \$YYYY, \$MM). For example, nowhere in the applied references is it disclosed or suggested that a directory name can be arbitrarily set beforehand using "IMAGE\\$USER" as the directory name or that the file name can be set by the user beforehand using a combination of \$YYYY and \$MM, whereby \$YYYY is "2000" showing the year the picture was taken and \$MM is "02" showing the month. By using this apparatus and program, users can recognize the contents of the image by looking at the folder and file names without having to open the files since the folder shows the user and file name shows when the picture was taken.

Accordingly, because Stewart fails to disclose each and every feature as the claimed invention, and because Yokomizo fails to compensate for deficiencies in Stewart, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC:RSE/dap

Date: April 9, 2004

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